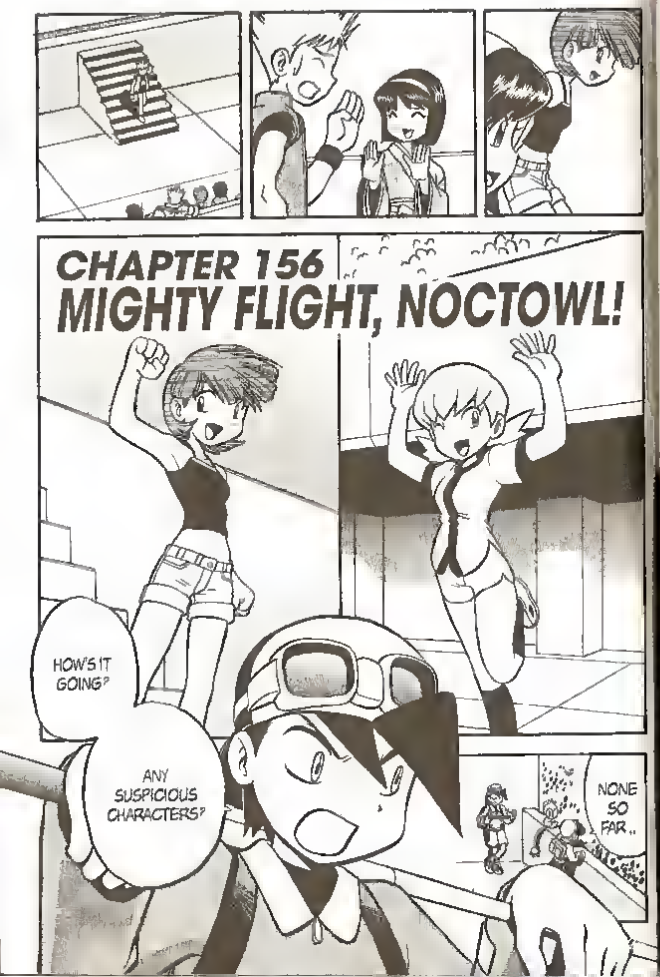
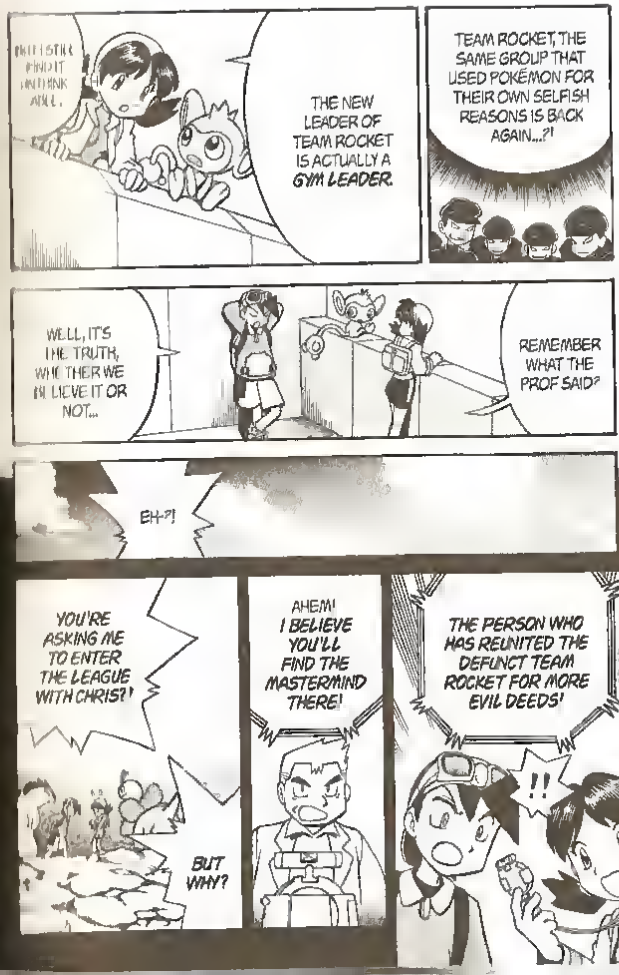
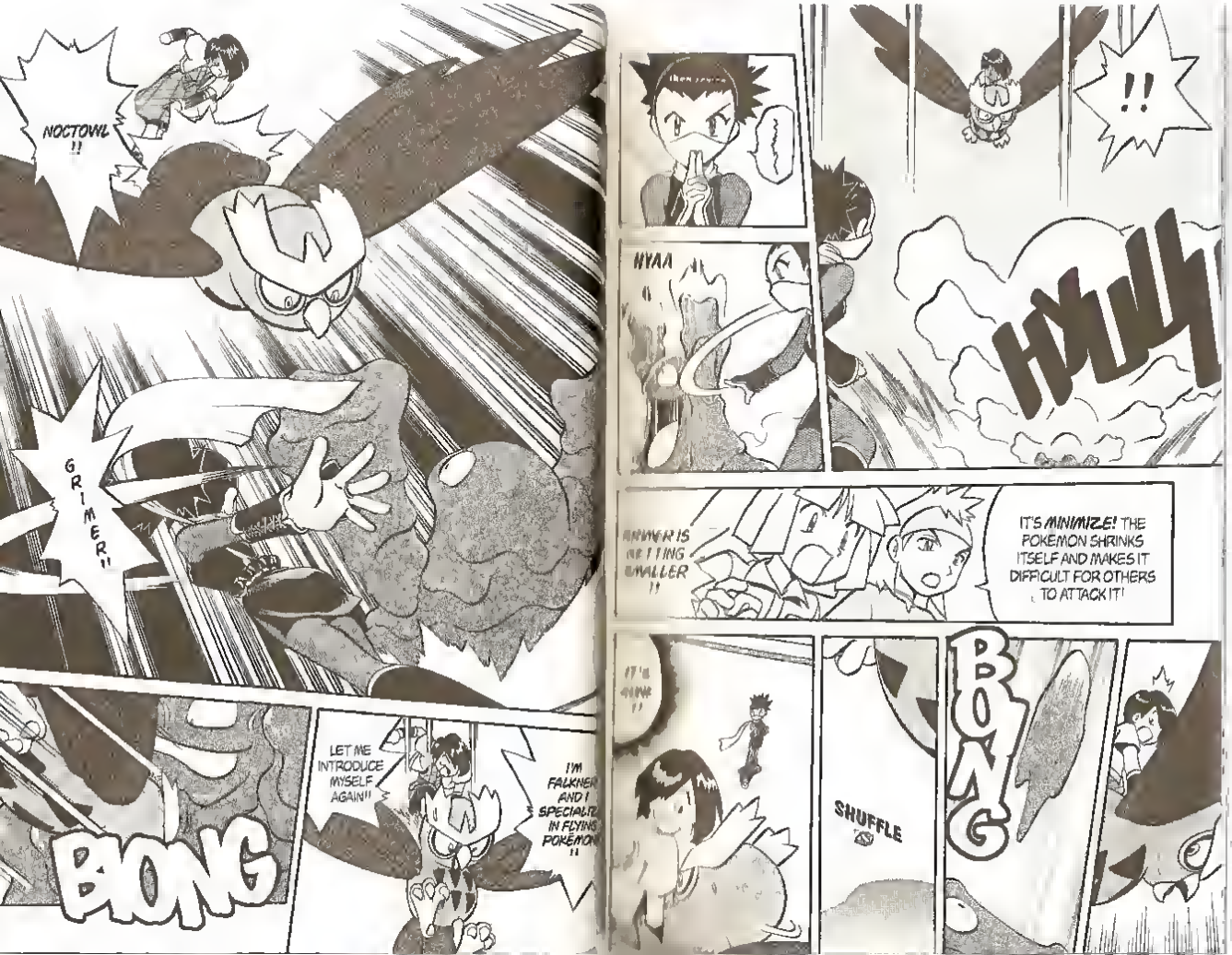

CHAPTER 156
MIGHTY FLIGHT, NOCTOWL!
HOW'S IT GOING?
ANY SUSPICIOUS CHARACTERS?
NONE SO FAR..

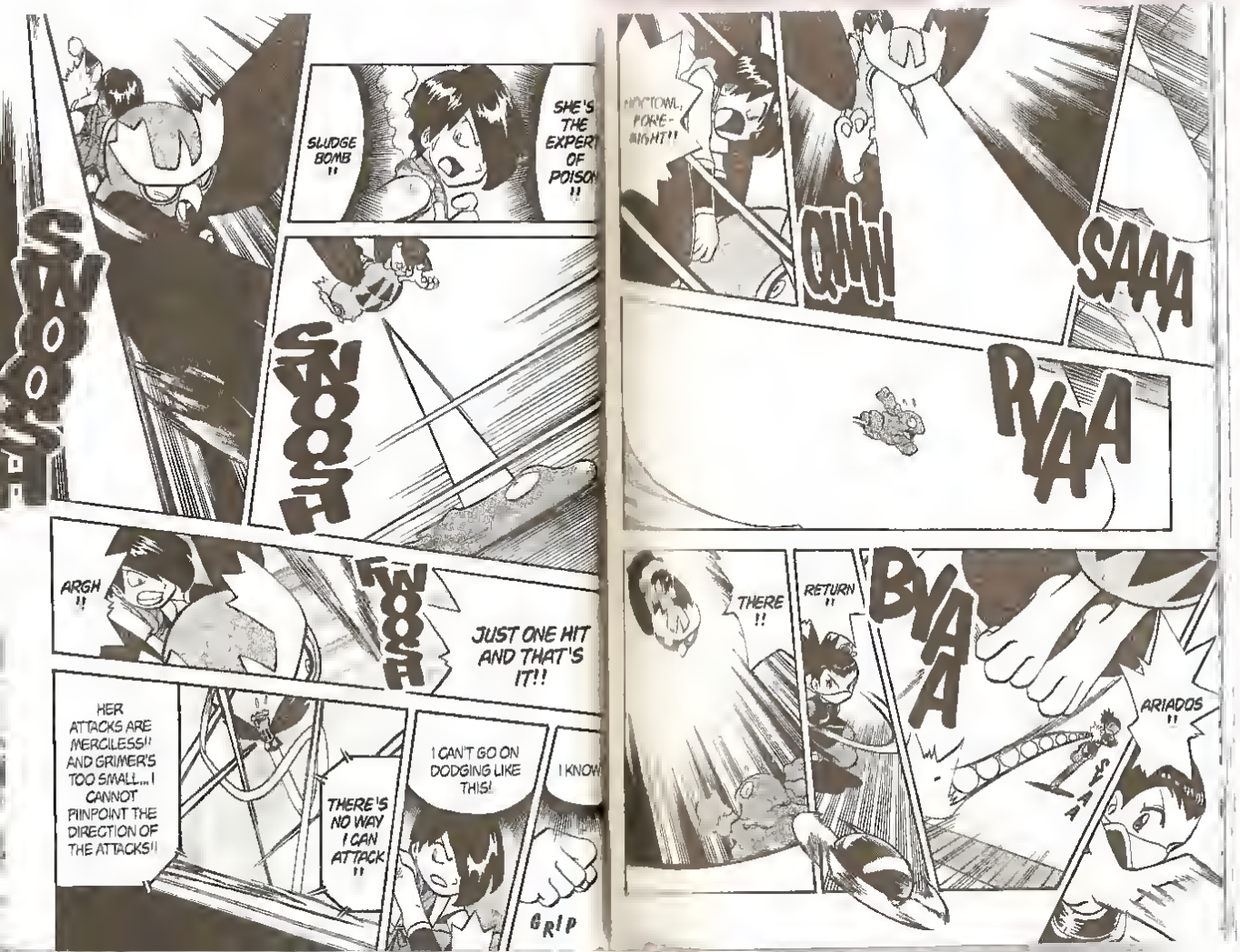

THE NEW LEADER OF TEAM ROCKET IS ACTUALLY A GYM LEADER.
TEAM ROCKET, THE SAME GROUP THAT USED POKÉMON FOR THEIR OWN SELFISH REASONS IS BACK AGAIN...?!
WELL, IT'S THE TRUTH, WHETHER WE BELIEVE IT OR NOT...
REMEMBER WHAT THE PROF SAID?
EH-?!
YOU'RE ASKING ME TO ENTER THE LEAGUE WITH CHRIS?!
BUT WHY?
AHEM! I BELIEVE YOU'LL FIND THE MASTERMIND THERE!
THE PERSON WHO HAS REUNITED THE DEFUNCT TEAM ROCKET FOR MORE EVIL DEEDS!
!!

ALTHOUGH THE NEW LEADER USUALLY WEARS A MASK TO CONCEAL HIS IDENTITY...
...I HAVE REASONS TO BELIEVE THAT HE'S ACTUALLY ONE OF THE GYM LEADERS!!
GYM LEADER !!
YOU CAN'T BE REFERRING TO THE LEADERS IN POKEMON GYMS?! THEY CAN'T POSSIBLY BE THE BAD GUY YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.
IT'S TRUE!
METALLIC POWDER FROM A GYM BADGE WAS DISCOVERED AFTER GOLD FOUGHT WITH THE MASKED MAN. IT'S VERY LIKELY THAT IT WAS FROM HIM
AND THIS BADGE HELD ONLY BY GYM LEADERS IS DIFFERENT FROM THOSE GIVEN OUT TO TRAINERS
THE ONLY PEOPLE WHO KNOW ABOUT THIS IS ELM HIS ASSISTANT, THE DIRECTOR, ME AND THE TWO OF YOU!
THE POKEMON ASSOCIATION HAD CARRIED OUT SOME INVESTIGATION, BUT TO NO AVAIL. HENCE THE DECISION TO GATHER ALL THE LEADERS AT THE LEAGUE!!
...YOU MEAN?!
YES !!
ON THE SURFACE, THE TOURNAMENT BETWEEN LEADERS IS PART OF THE OPENING CEREMONY, BUT THE REAL MOTIVE IS TO...
FIND THE REAL MASTERMIND !!
YOU'RE RIGHT!
AND TO DO THAT, WE'LL NEED GOLD, WHO HAS FOUGHT WITH THE MASKED MAN BEFORE! OBSERVE ALL THE LEADERS AND FIND THE MAN BEHIND THIS!!
NO PROBLEM! YOU CAN COUNT ON ME!!
UH,... SO MY ROLE IN THIS IS TO...?
YOU WILL HAVE TO BE GOLD'S GUARDIAN...
UNSTOPPABLE ONCE HE GETS TOO AGITATED AND YOU'RE THE ONLY PERSON WHO CAN CONTROL HIM..
THE MASKED MAN!! I'M GONNA RIP THAT MASK OFF THIS TIME!!
WELL THEN..
GRIP

LEAP
LET'S GO ATARO! EXPLOTARO !!
SHHH! WE'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO BE SEEN!!
OUCH
OOPS, SORRY ...
OH NO!
MIL MIL, ROLLOUT !!
SWOOSH
WHIRL
WHIRL
RAPID SPIN!!
BHAAM
SLIP
GRIP
SHAKE SHAKE
STARMIE, FLASH!!
KAAA
HYPER BEAM !!
SWOOSH

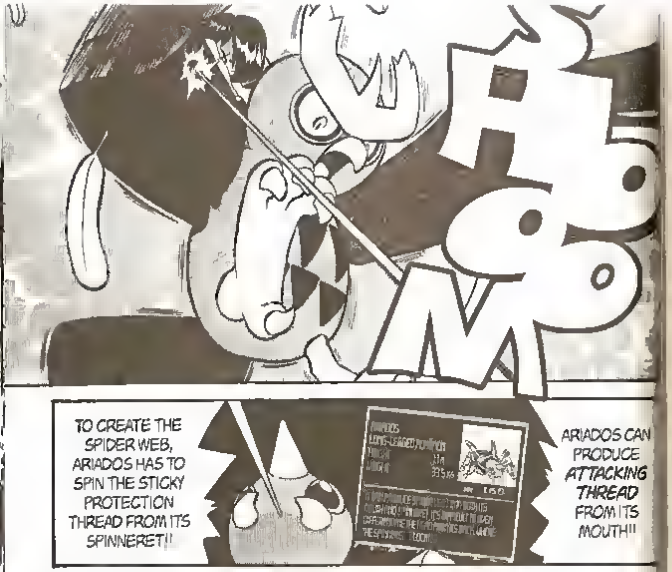
AHH, MIL MIL!!
MILTANK IS DEFEATED!!
IN THE SECOND MATCH, MISTY FROM CERULEAN DEFEATS WHITNEY FROM GOLDENROD!!
NO WONDER THEY ARE OUR GYM LEADERS THESE ARE SOME OF THE BATTLES I'VE EVER SEEN!!
JASMINE FROM JOHTO AND MISTY FROM KANTO HAVE BOTH WON THEIR FIRST ROUNDS!! AND MISTY FROM KANTO WON THE SECOND.
AND NOW FOR ROUND THREE!
OF THE 16 LEADERS PRESENT TODAY, THREE ARE NEW TO THEIR APPOINTMENTS!
AND NOW, TWO OF THEM ARE GOING TO HAVE TO BATTLE EACH OTHER!!
ZAA
THOUGH THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'M AT A POKEMON LEAGUE, THIS IS LIKE ONE BIG PARTY. IT DOESN'T SERVE TO HIGHLIGHT THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF A GYM LEADER.
THAT'S NOT TRUE!
AND I'M NOT SPROUTING RUBBISH THIS IS THE EVENT FOR POKEMON-LOVERS. IF ANYONE WERE TO COME IN AND SPOIL IT...
..IT WOULD MEAN THE END OF THIS LEAGUE!
VIOLET'S FALKNER VS FUCHSIA'S JANINE!
BATTLE START!!
DAT
BESIDES, THE OPPONENT IS SOMEONE WHO ABUSES POKEMON FOR SELFISH REASONS
GRR
IT'S UNFORGIV-ABLE!!
GOLD..

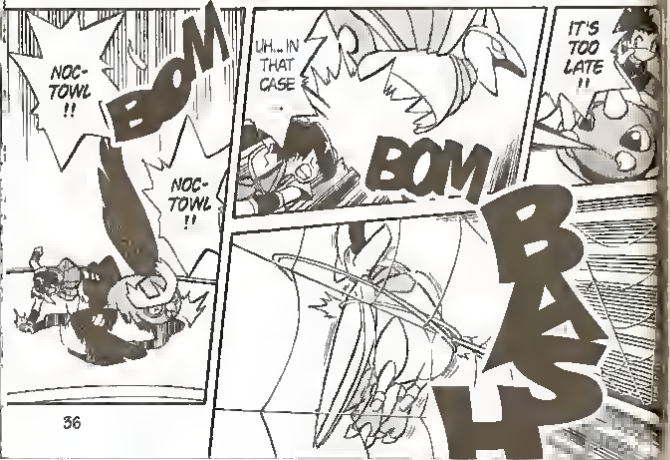

NOCTOWL !!
GRIMER!!
BIONG
LET ME INTRODUCE MYSELF AGAIN!!
I'M FALKNER AND I SPECIALIZE IN FLYING POKÉMON !!
!!
HYAA
HYUUP
GRIMER IS GETTING SMALLER !!
IT'S MINIMIZE! THE POKÉMON SHRINKS ITSELF AND MAKES IT DIFFICULT FOR OTHERS TO ATTACK IT!
IT'S GONE !!
SHUFFLE
BONG

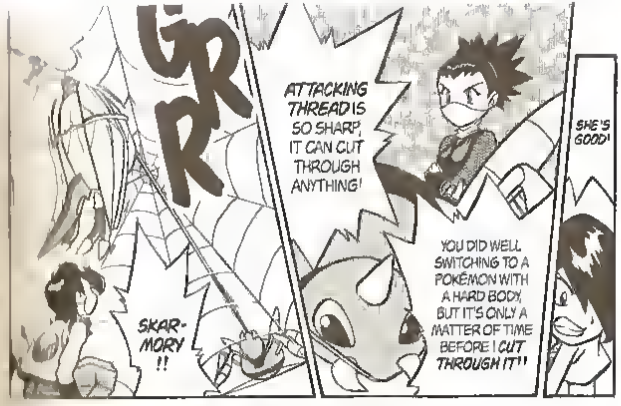

SHE'S THE EXPERT OF POISON !!
SLUDGE BOMB !!
SWOOSH
SWOOSH
ARGH !!
SWOOSH
JUST ONE HIT AND THAT'S IT!!
HER ATTACKS ARE MERCILESS!! AND GRIMER'S TOO SMALL... I CANNOT PINPOINT THE DIRECTION OF THE ATTACKS!!
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN ATTACK !!
I CAN'T GO ON DODGING LIKE THIS!
I KNOW!
GRIP
NOCTOWL, FORE-SIGHT!!
CAWW
SAAA
RYAA
THERE !!
RETURN !!
BYAA
ARIADOS !!

IT WON'T WORK NO MATTER WHICH POKÉMON YOU USE!! I WON'T FALL FOR THE SAME TRICK!
I'M GONNA ENGAGE MY BEST FLYING ATTACK!
BOOM
WHOOSH
I WON'T GIVE YOU A CHANCE TO ATTACK!!
TOT TOT
ZAW ZAW

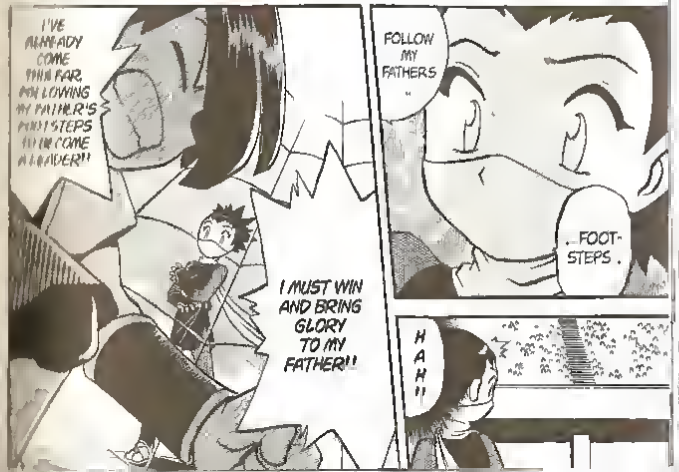
!!
WAIT!!
NOCTOWL, STOP!!
HA HA HA HA.
YOU STOPPED JUST IN TIME!
IF NOCTOWL HAD CRASHED INTO THAT INVISIBLE WEB, WE'D BE TRAPPED!
ARIADOS MANAGED TO SPIN THIS WEB WHILE BEING ATTACKED BY MY NOCTOWL!
THAT'S RIGHT! AND THAT'S NOT ALL!!
ZAW

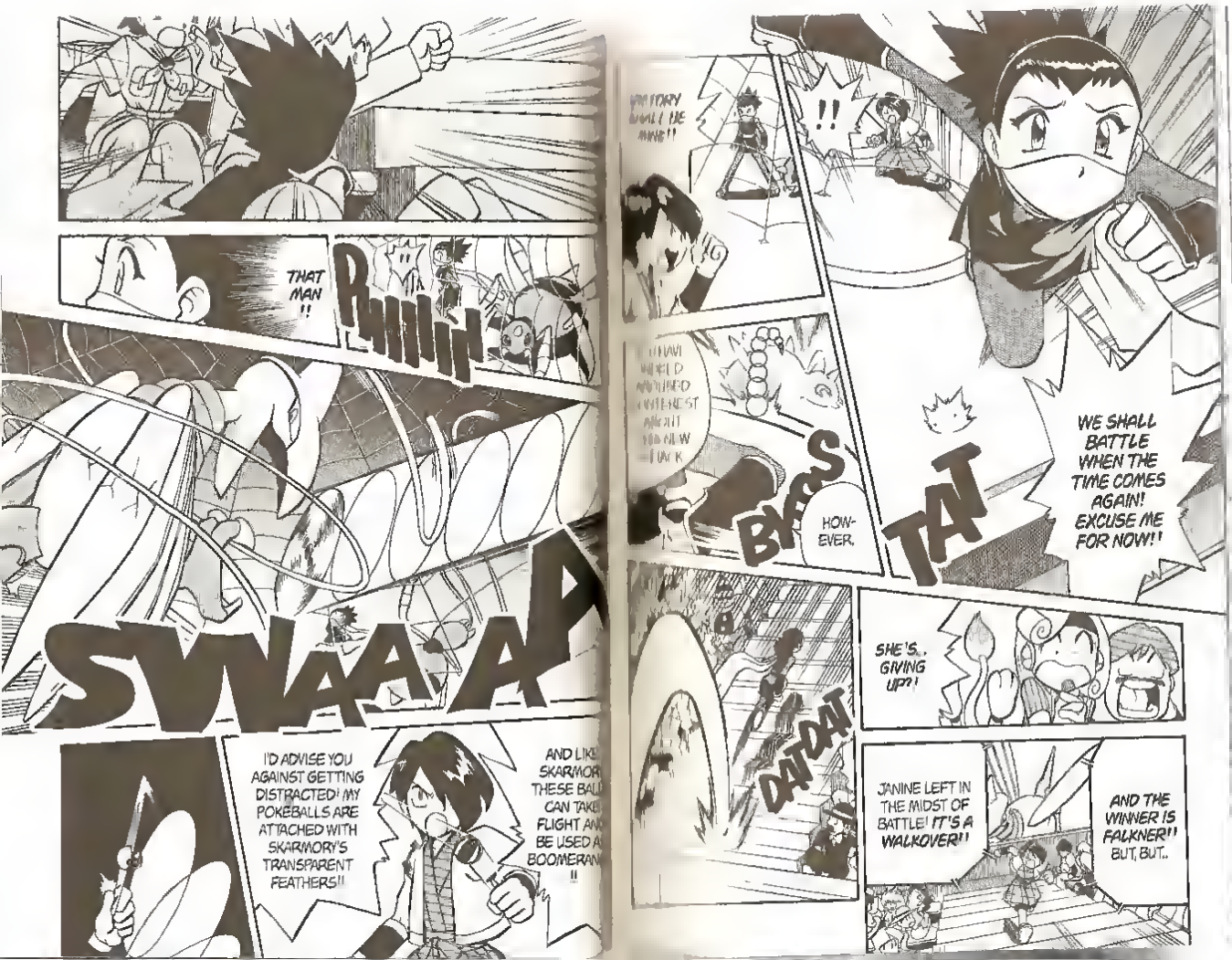

TO CREATE THE SPIDER WEB, ARIADOS HAS TO SPIN THE STICKY PROTECTION THREAD FROM ITS SPINNERET!!
ARIADOS CAN PRODUCE ATTACKING THREAD FROM ITS MOUTH!!


NOC-TOWL !!
BOM
NOC-TOWL !!
UH... IN THAT CASE
BOM
IT'S TOO LATE !!
BASH


GRR
SKAR-MORY !!
ATTACKING THREAD IS SO SHARP, IT CAN CUT THROUGH ANYTHING!
YOU DID WELL SWITCHING TO A POKÉMON WITH A HARD BODY, BUT IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE I CUT THROUGH IT!!
SHE'S GOOD!

POUND
BUT I'M NOT GONNA LOSE NOW!!


I'VE ALREADY COME THIS FAR FOR LOVING MY FATHER. I'M SURE MY FOOTSTEPS WILL BECOME A LEADER!!
I MUST WIN AND BRING GLORY TO MY FATHER!!
FOLLOW MY FATHER'S ..
..FOOT-STEPS.
HAH!!


SWAAAP
THAT MAN !!
I'D ADVISE YOU AGAINST GETTING DISTRACTED! MY POKEBALLS ARE ATTACHED WITH SKARMORY'S TRANSPARENT FEATHERS!!
AND LIKE SKARMORY, THESE BALL CAN TAKE FLIGHT AND BE USED A BOOMERAN !!
!!
WE SHALL BATTLE WHEN THE TIME COMES AGAIN! EXCUSE ME FOR NOW!!
TAT
BYES
HOW-EVER.
DAT-DAT
SHE'S.. GIVING UP?!
JANINE LEFT IN THE MIDST OF BATTLE! IT'S A WALKOVER!!
AND THE WINNER IS FALKNER!! BUT, BUT..

PANT
PANT
I CAN'T BE WRONG..
THAT WAS MY FATHER...
PANT! PANT! HEY WAIT UP! WHAT HAPPENED ...?
?!
..FALKNER, PLEASE FORGIVE ME...
FORGIVE MY SUDDEN DEPART-URE... I..
EH, IT'S OK..
YOU MENTIONED THAT YOU'D FOLLO YOUR FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS AND BECAME A LEADE
IT SEEMS THAT I HAVE FOUGHT WITH A SIMILAR OPPONENT AGAIN.
SIGH.., I GUESS THIS IS MY FATE..
I HAVE NO INTENTION OF ING YOU WHAT W AMONGST THE SPECTATORS... BUT
I HAVE THIS BAD FEELING THAT THERE'S SOME FORCE THAT IS INFLUENCING THIS ENTIRE HALL..
IF IT'S AN UNINVITED INTRUDER, I'LL LOCATE HIM, NO MATTER WHAT!!
I'M A POLICE OFFICER AFTER ALL!!
YEAH.
SURGE AND SABRINA WERE ONCE OUR ENEMIES. NOW THEY SEEM TOTALLY AT EASE AS KANTO'S REPRESENTATIVES.
THE POKÉMON ASSOCIATION HAD CLOSED THE CASE, CITING INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE.
THEY HAVE MADE THEIR WAY HERE TO TAKE PART IN THE LEAGUE, SEEMINGLY UNDISTURBED BY THEIR PAST.

HAH! FINALLY! IT'S MY TURN! C'MON, CHEER FOR ME!!
YEA!
...
ERMM... SABRINA
...I HEARD YOU'VE BEEN TO THE HOT SPRING ON MT. SILVER TO TREAT YOUR INJURIES...
THE WINNER OF THE LAST LEAGUE, RED WAS ALSO HEADED FOR THE SAME MT. SILVER.
AS CAPTAIN OF THE KANTO TEAM, I WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU IF YOU'VE SEEN RED AT THE HOT SPRING?
WELL..
...I DID MEET HIM.... WHAT ABOUT IT?
CHAPTER 157 ELECTRIFYING MAGNEMITE
YOU REALLY SAW RED AT MT. SILVER?!
STAND
YOU SEEM TO BE MISTAKEN
I DID NOT JOIN THE LEAGUE TO SHARE GOSSIP ABOUT WHO I'VE SEEN OR MET..
I'M HEADING FOR THE WAITING ROOM TO GET SOME REST BEFORE MY BATTLE
KOT
KOT
KOT
KOT
AT THAT TIME..